

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 SS-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

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R 072057Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2692

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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PASS COMMERCE BEWT/PORTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, XG, XH, JA, US

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF INSURANCE ON SHIPMENTS IN EAST-WEST TRADE

REF: STATE 023552

1. SOVIET OVERTURE AND CANADIAN REPOSE DESCRIBED
PARAGRAPH 4 REFTTEL SEEM CORRECT. IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT
TO FIND KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIAL THIS TOPIC, BUT CANADIAN
TRANSPORT COMMISSION SOURCE HAS INDICATED USSR APPROACH
MADE WELL OVER A YEAR AGO. GOC INFORMALLY TOLD SOVS
CANADA, WITH ITS LIMITED NATIONAL FLAG FLEET, HAD NO
PARTICULAR NEED FOR TRADITIONAL TYPE NAVIGATION TREATY
AND IN ANY EVENT ITS PORTS WERE OPEN TO VESSELS OF ALL
NATIONS. HOWEVER, INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER MATTER
FURTHER IF USSR PROPOSED SOMETHING OF VALUE TO CANADA AND
MENTIONED, AS A POSSIBILITY, GUARANTEED PLACEMENT OF
MARINE INSURANCE ON SOME PART OF CAN-SOV TRADE. CANADA
IS STILL AWAITING CONCRETE PROPOSAL FROM USSR AND
IS NOT PUSHING ISSUE ITSELF.

2. LIKEWISE IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO FIND GOC OFFICE
INTERESTED IN SUBSTANCE OF PROBLEM. HOWEVER,
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISOR IN DEPT. OF INDUSTRY,
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TRADE AND COMMERCE IS WILLING TO SEE IF ANY INFO IS

AVAILABLE RELATING TO QUESTIONS POSED PARAGRAPHS 9-14
REFTEL. WE ARE FORWARDING LIST OF THESE QUESTIONS TO
ITC WHICH WILL ADVISE EXTENT ITS ABILITY PROVIDE
INFORMATION LATE NEXT WEEK.

3. ITC HAS SUGGESTED CONTACT THIS ISSUE MIGHT USEFULLY
BE MADE WITH CANADIAN BOARD OF MARINE UNDERWRITERS,
COMMERCE HOUSE, 1080 BEAVER HALL HILL, MONTREAL.
ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE FORWARDING COPY REFTEL TO CONGEN
MONTREAL FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ADVISE
SPECIFICALLY IF CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH CANADIAN
INDUSTRY ON THIS QUESTION.
JOHNSON

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